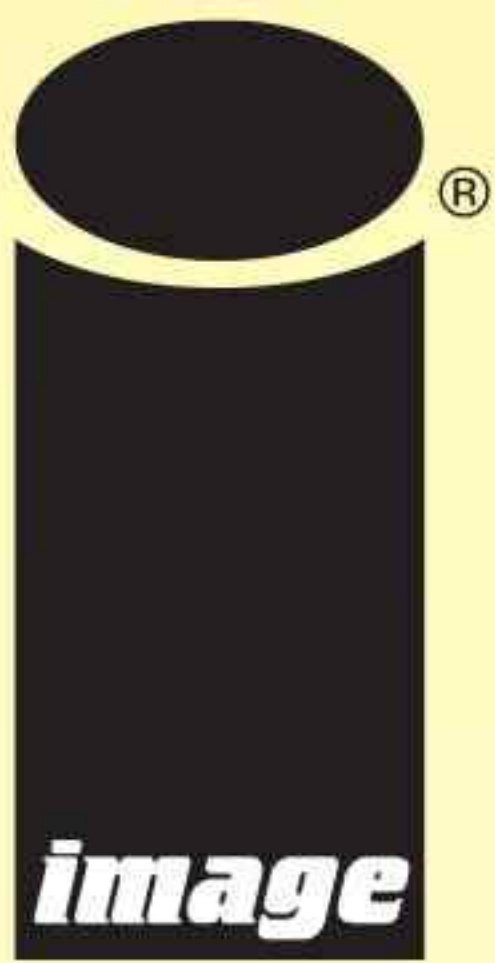




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20

INVINCIBLE



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INVINCIBLE

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WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER & INKER

BILL CRABTREE
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



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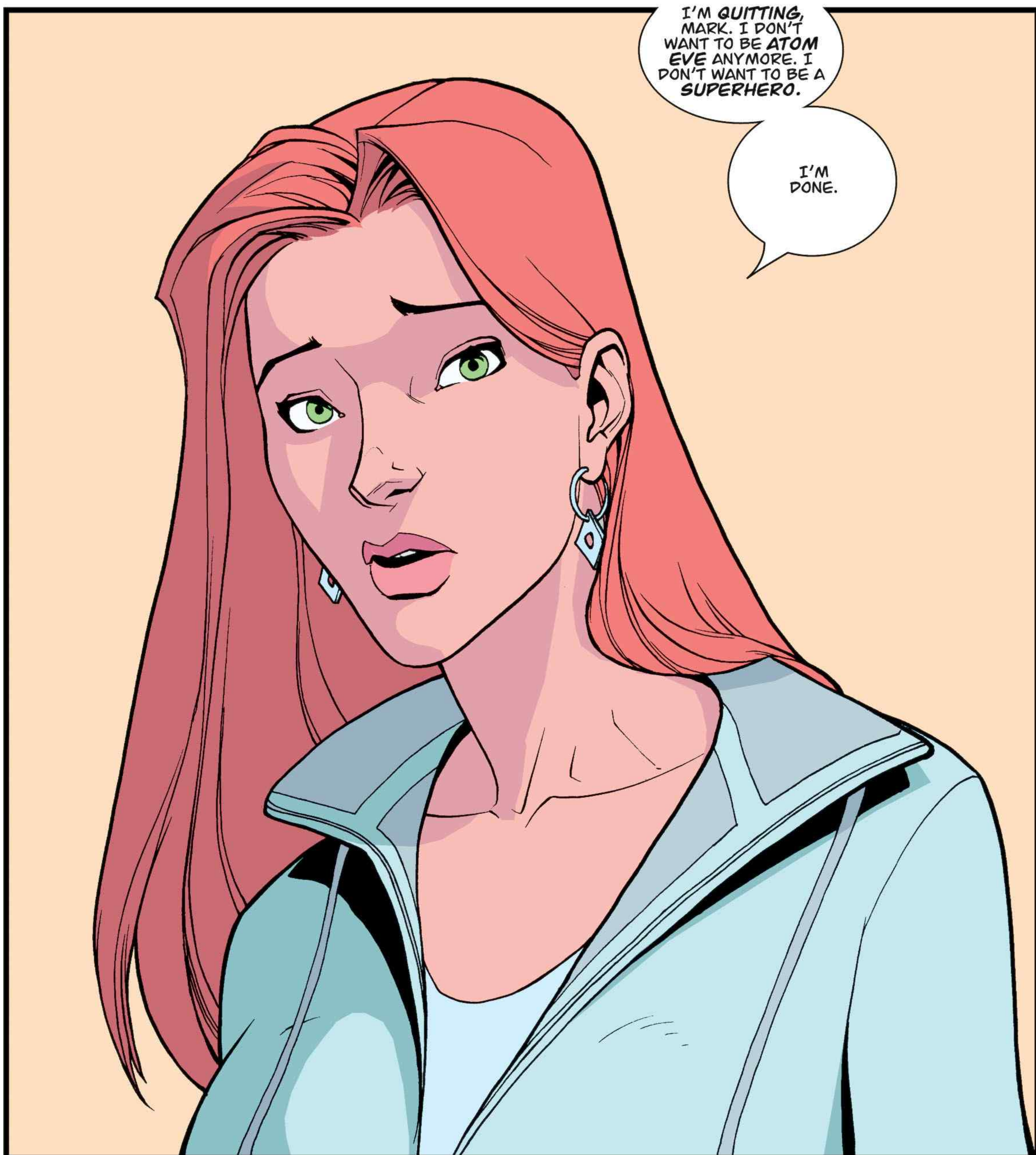
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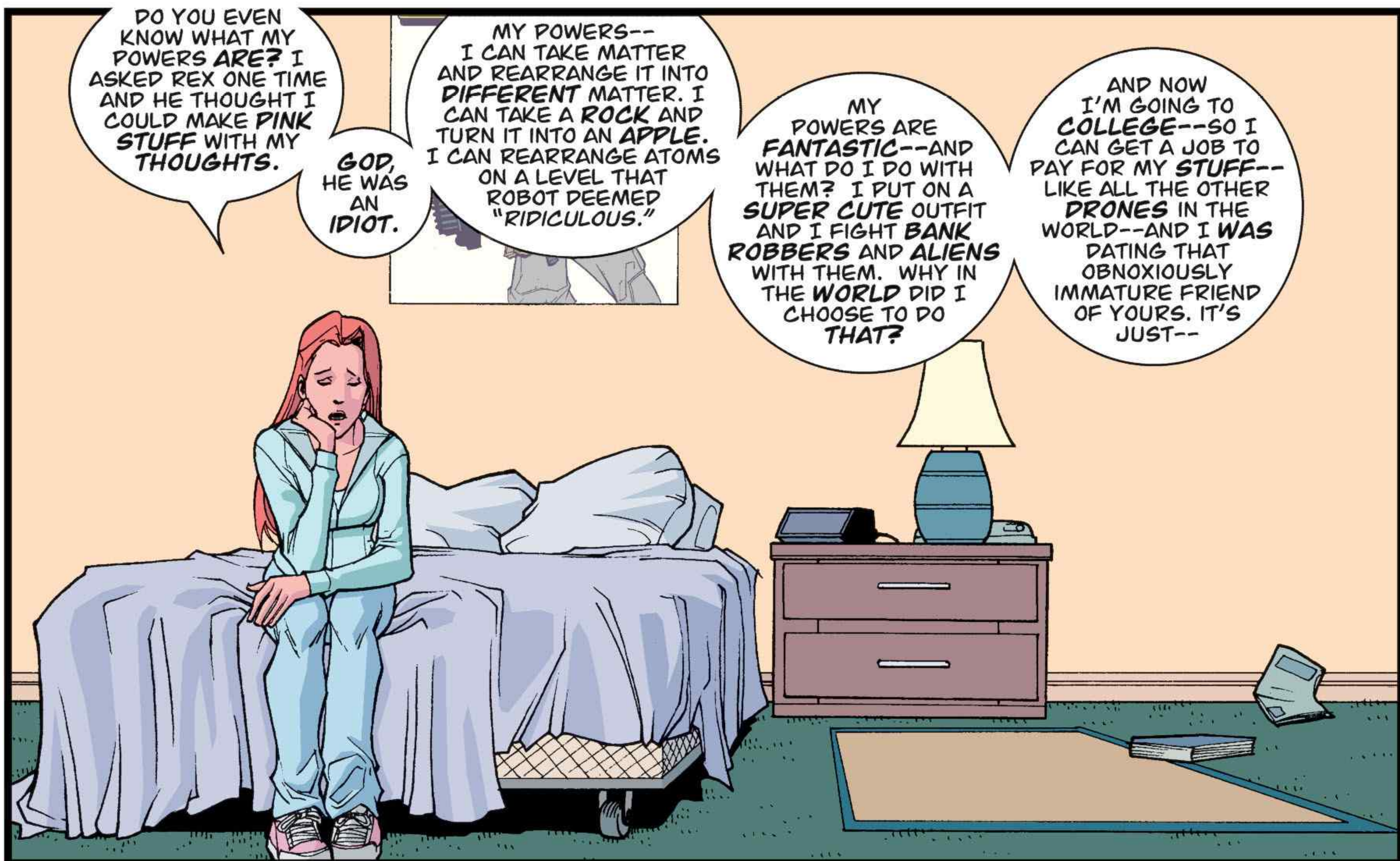
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IT'S JUST THAT MY POWERS ARE **WASTED** ON THIS. THE WORLD HAS GUYS LIKE **YOU** OUT THERE SAVING THE WORLD. MY POWERS COULD BE PUT TO USE **ELSEWHERE**, DOING MORE GOOD THAN I'M DOING NOW.



I'M GOING TO AFRICA, ASIA--THE MIDDLE EAST. I COULD DO SO MUCH GOOD FOR THOSE PEOPLE.

I COULD FEED THE **HUNGRY**-- BUILD HOUSES FOR THE **HOMELESS**. I COULD IMPROVE THOSE PEOPLE'S LIVES.



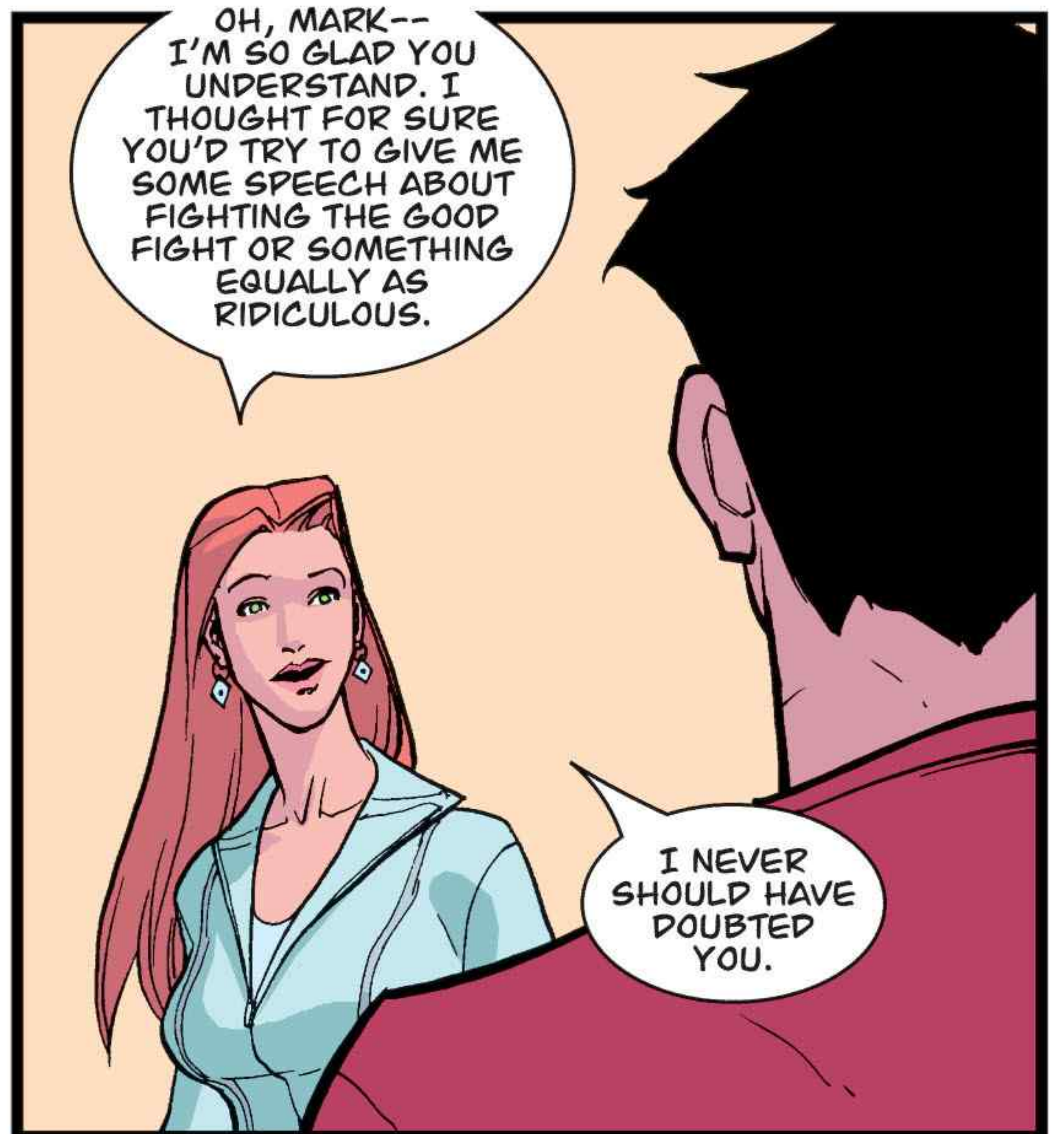
COLLEGE, HOMEWORK, BOYS, SUPERHEROICS-- I'M **WASTING MY POTENTIAL** HERE. I COULD DO SO MUCH MORE.

AM I MAKING **ANY SENSE?**



YEAH. YOU'RE MAKING ABSOLUTELY **PERFECT SENSE**. I'VE NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT STUFF THAT WAY.

I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA.



OH, MARK-- I'M SO GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND. I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D TRY TO GIVE ME SOME SPEECH ABOUT FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OR SOMETHING EQUALLY AS RIDICULOUS.

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE DOUBTED YOU.

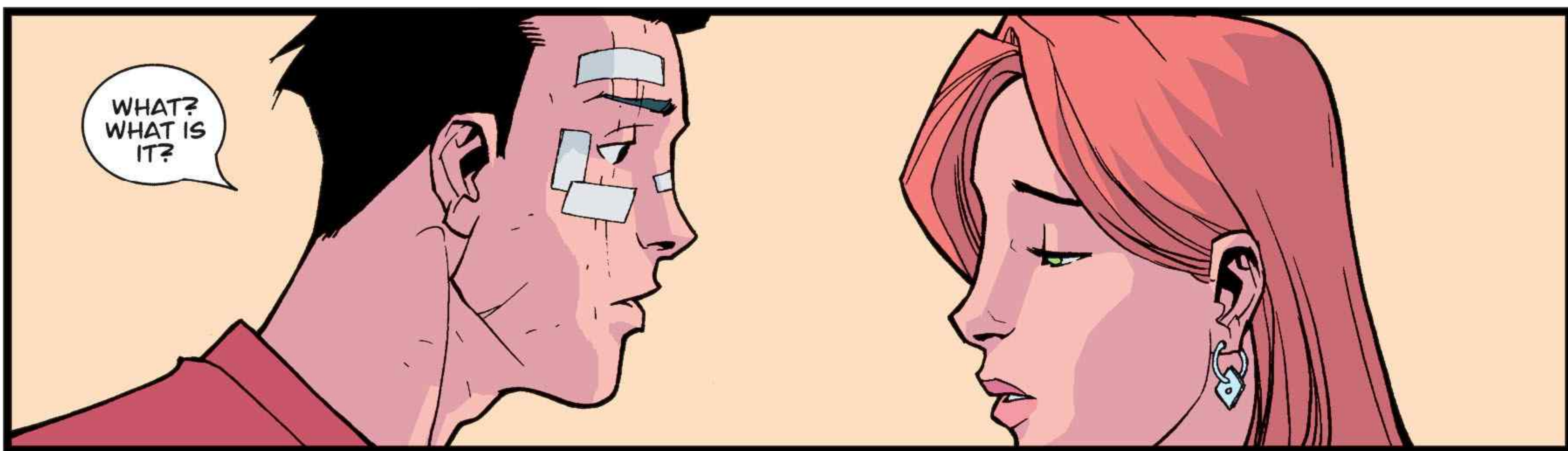
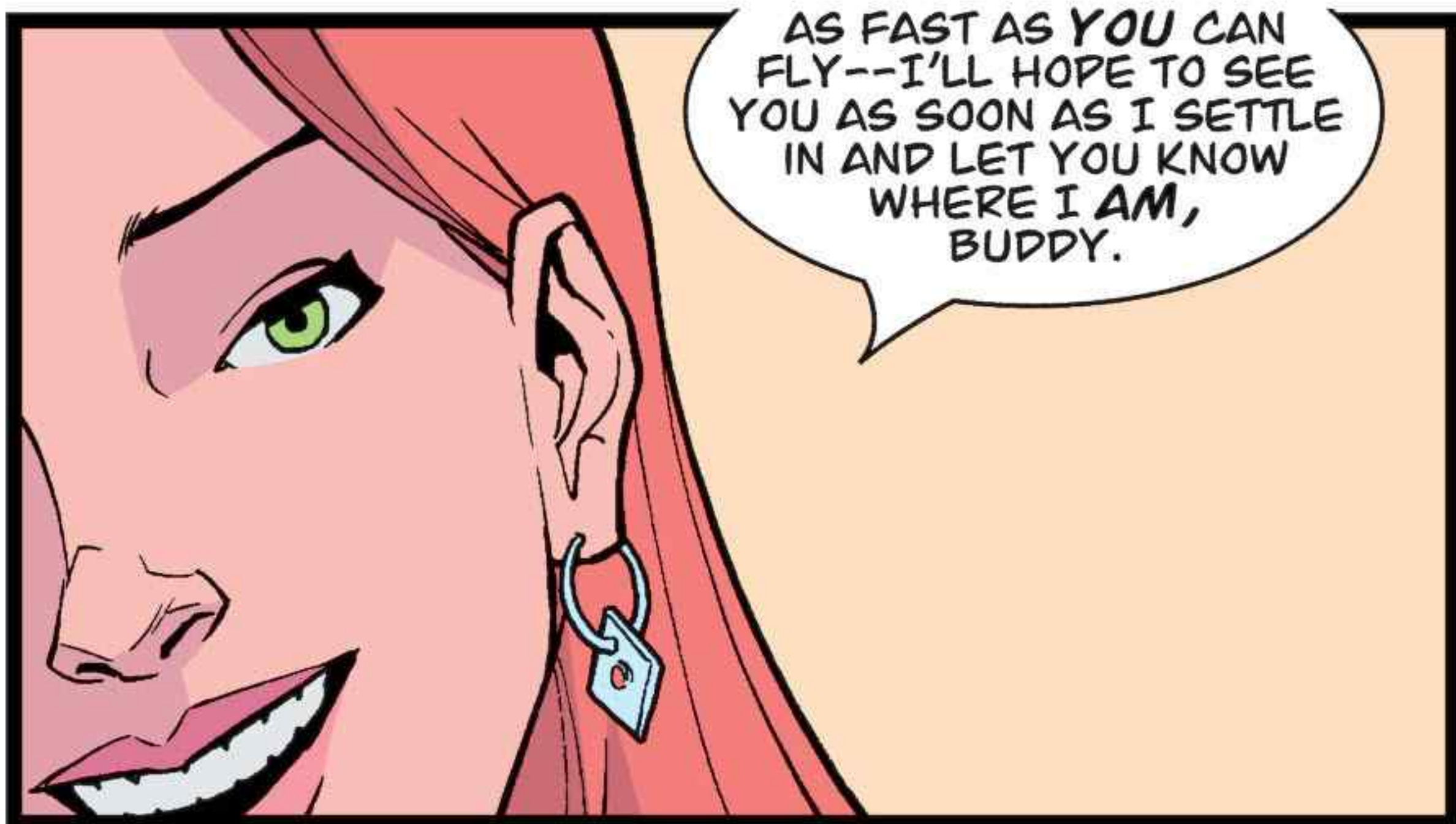


ARE YOU GOING **NOW?** TONIGHT?

YEAH...MY PARENTS ARE GOING TO **FLIP OUT**. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TELL THEM SO I JUST LEFT THEM A **NOTE**. THEY NEVER REALLY WERE TOO COMFORTABLE WITH ME HAVING POWERS ANYWAY...THIS IS GOING TO **KILL THEM**.

TRUTH BE TOLD-- THEY KINDA **DESERVE IT**.

WHEN WILL I **SEE YOU AGAIN?**





I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING NEW, ANGSTROM. I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED "ELBOW ROOM."

GOOD EYE, MAULER. YOU AND YOUR DOUBLE NEVER CEASE TO IMPRESS ME. I DISCOVERED A REALITY WHERE A VIRUS ATTACKED THE Y CHROMOSOME, KILLING ALL THE MALES ON EARTH. I THOUGHT MY OTHER DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS DESERVED SOME R & R AFTER ALL THIS WAITING AROUND.

LET ME TELL YOU-- THEY'RE GETTING A ROYAL TREATMENT THERE. I'LL BE HEADING OVER MYSELF SHORTLY. YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG AFTER YOU REACH A STOPPING POINT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE QUITE A TIME.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS US NEARLY AS MUCH AS GETTING THIS PROJECT DONE SO WE CAN GET BACK TO OUR PLANS.

YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW WE PERFECTED THE PROCESS I USED TO DOWNLOAD MY MEMORIES INTO MY CLONE.

YOU MEAN THAT I USED, RIGHT, CLONE?

CAN WE NOT DO THIS? ANYWAY--EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER. WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO COMPLETING ALL THE MACHINES IN YOUR VARIOUS DIMENSIONAL SAFE HOUSES.

WE ARE PROBABLY ONLY A WEEK AWAY.

FANTASTIC. KEEP ME POSTED. I CAN'T KEEP ENTIRE CITIES WORTH OF LADIES WAITING.

I'LL BE BACK BY MORNING... MAYBE.



WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS **RUBBISH!** THIS IS MERELY A COMMON **TRASH BAG!** GOING BY THE AMOUNT OF FAST FOOD WASTE, PROBABLY **AMERICAN.**

IT PROBABLY FELL FROM A CARGO PLANE-- AND WAS BLOWN HERE BY UPDRAFTS. IT'S **BOLLOCKS** TO THINK THIS CAME FROM A--

EY, WOT?!

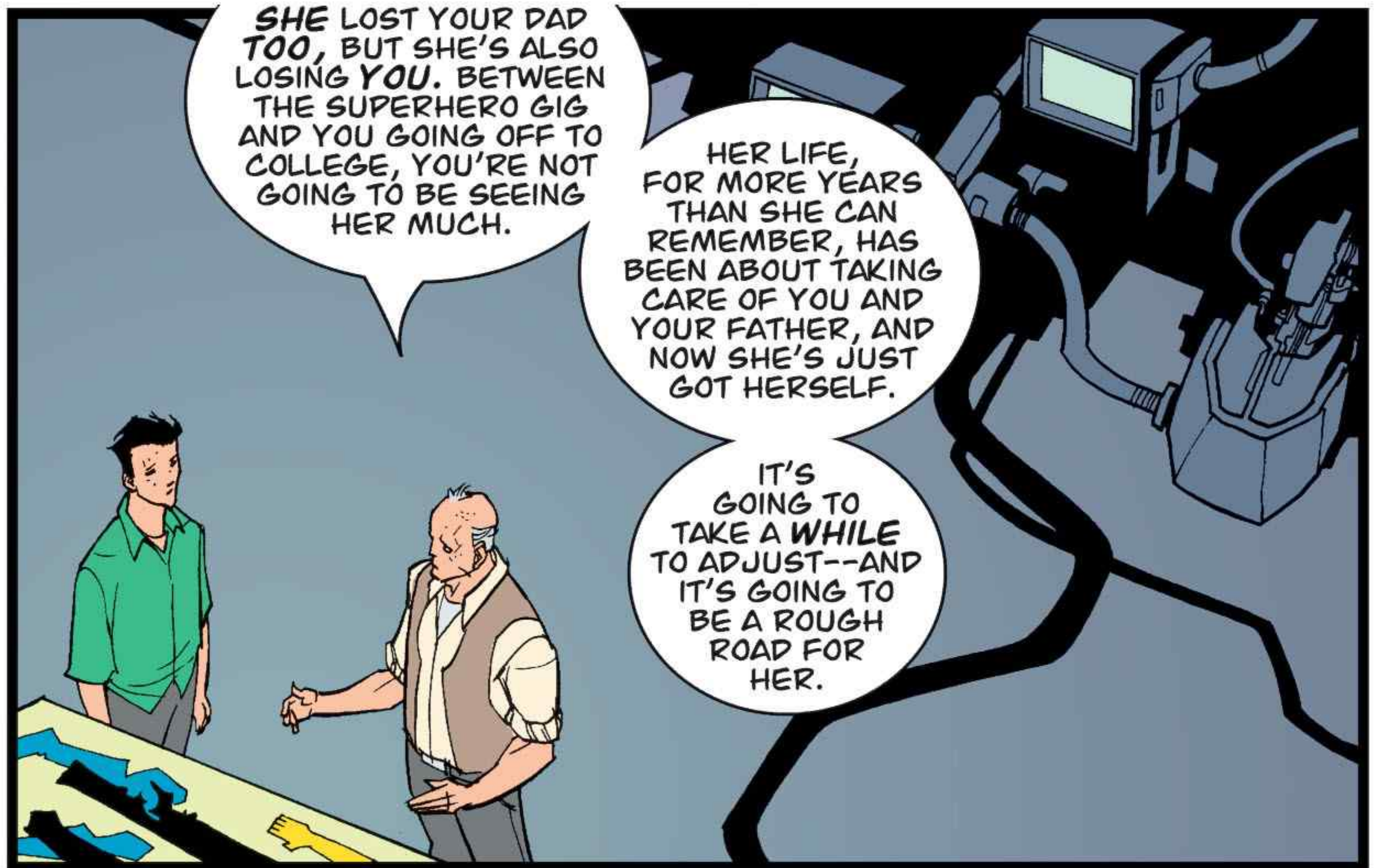
TWAP!

OOE!

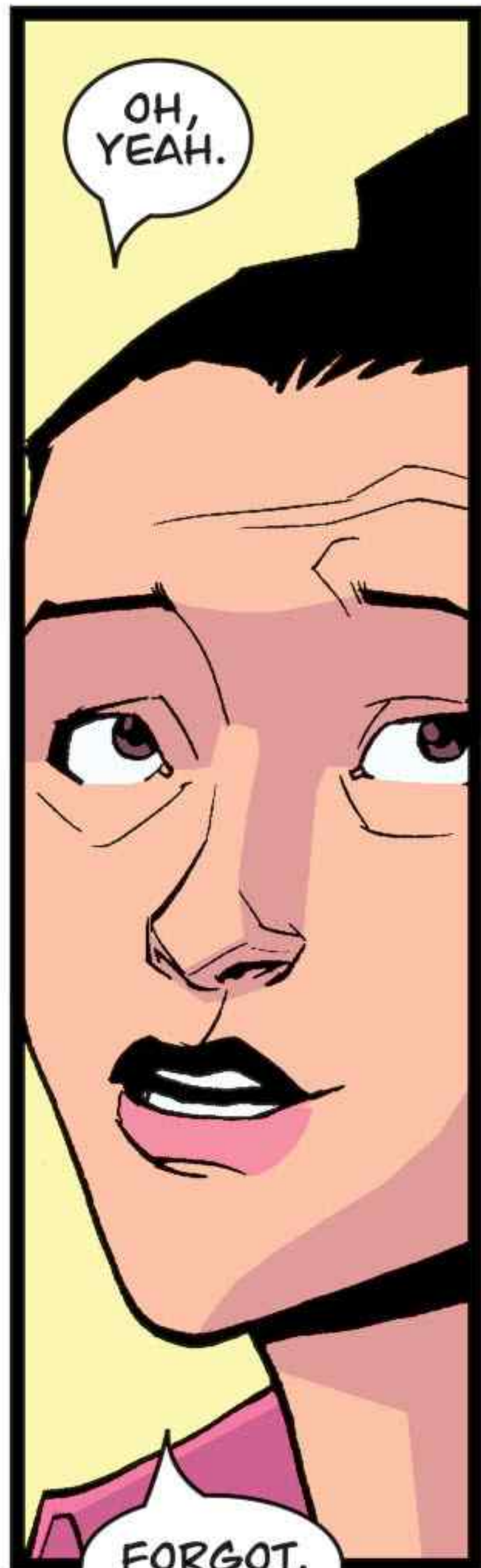
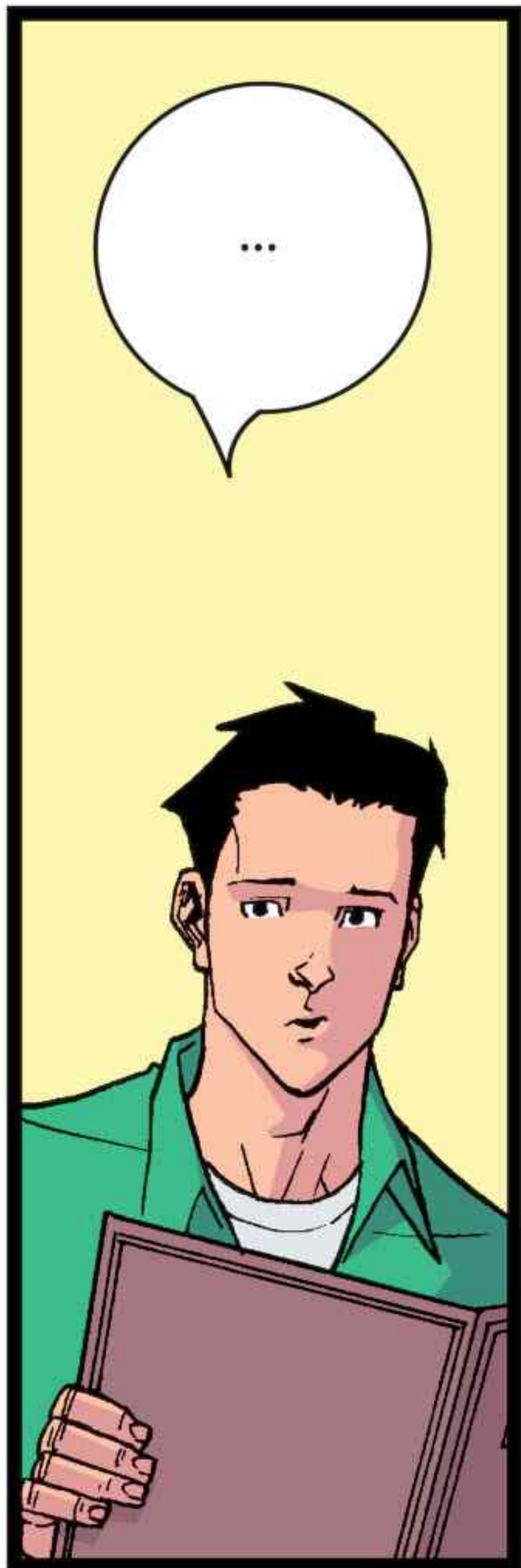
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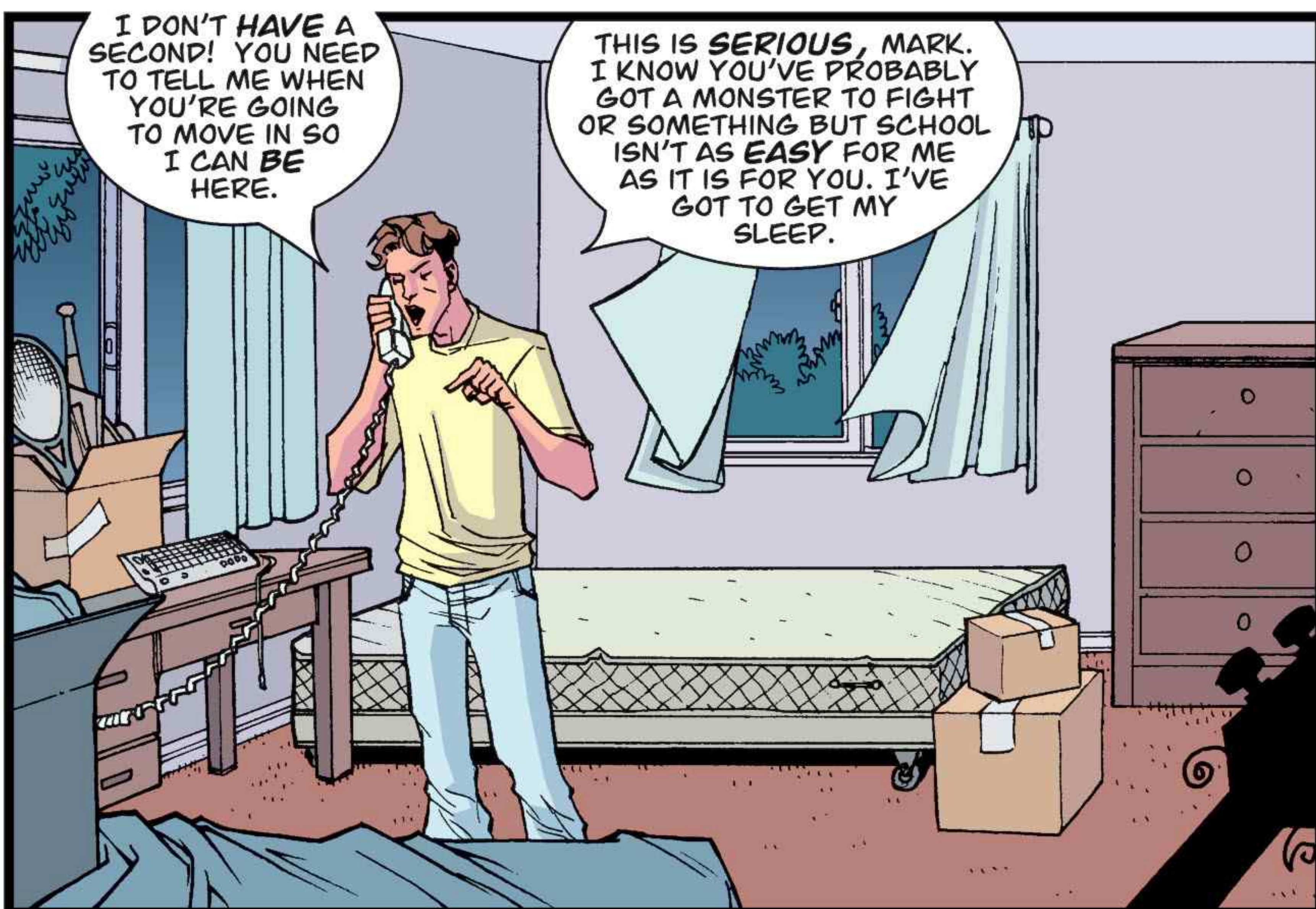
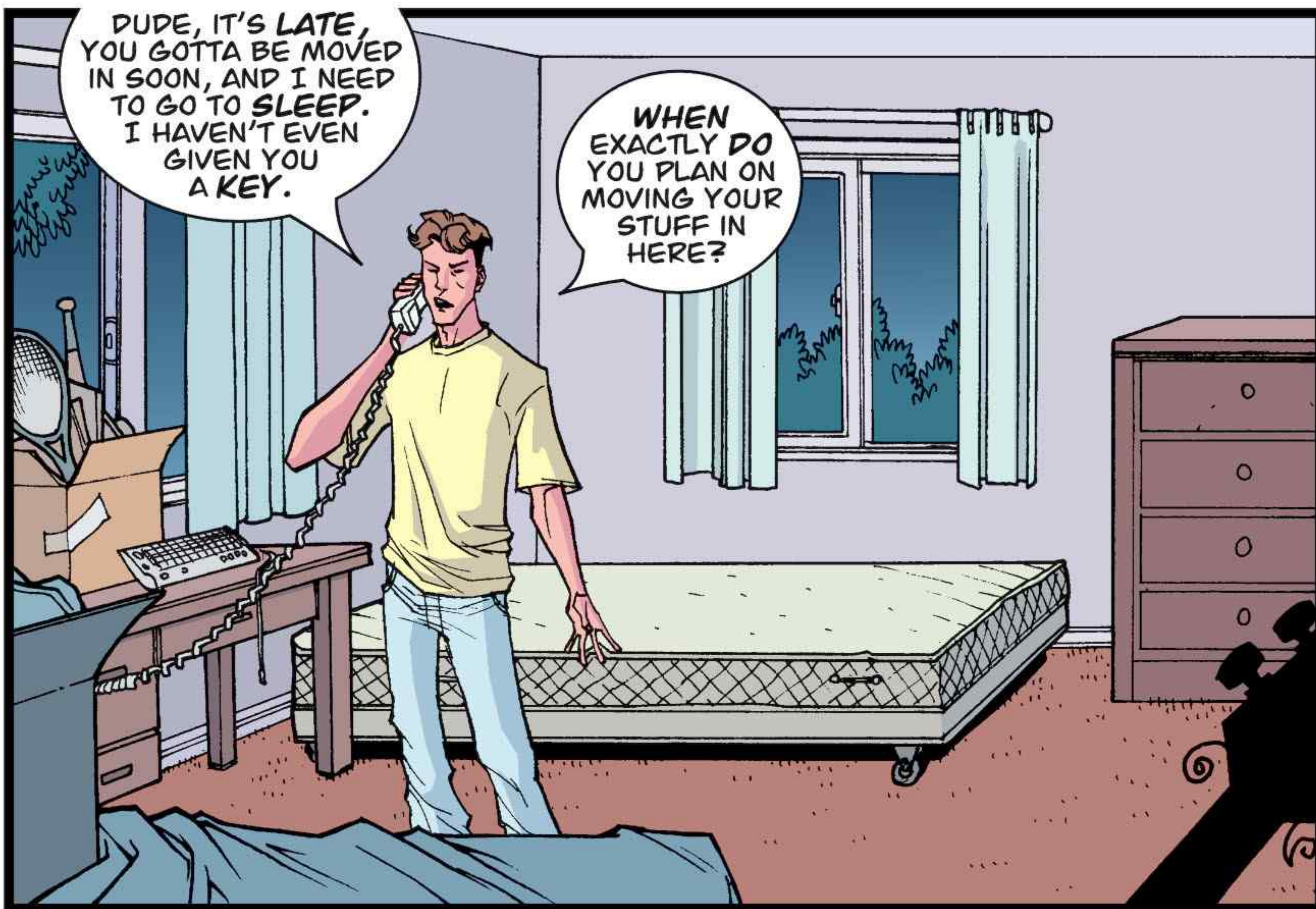
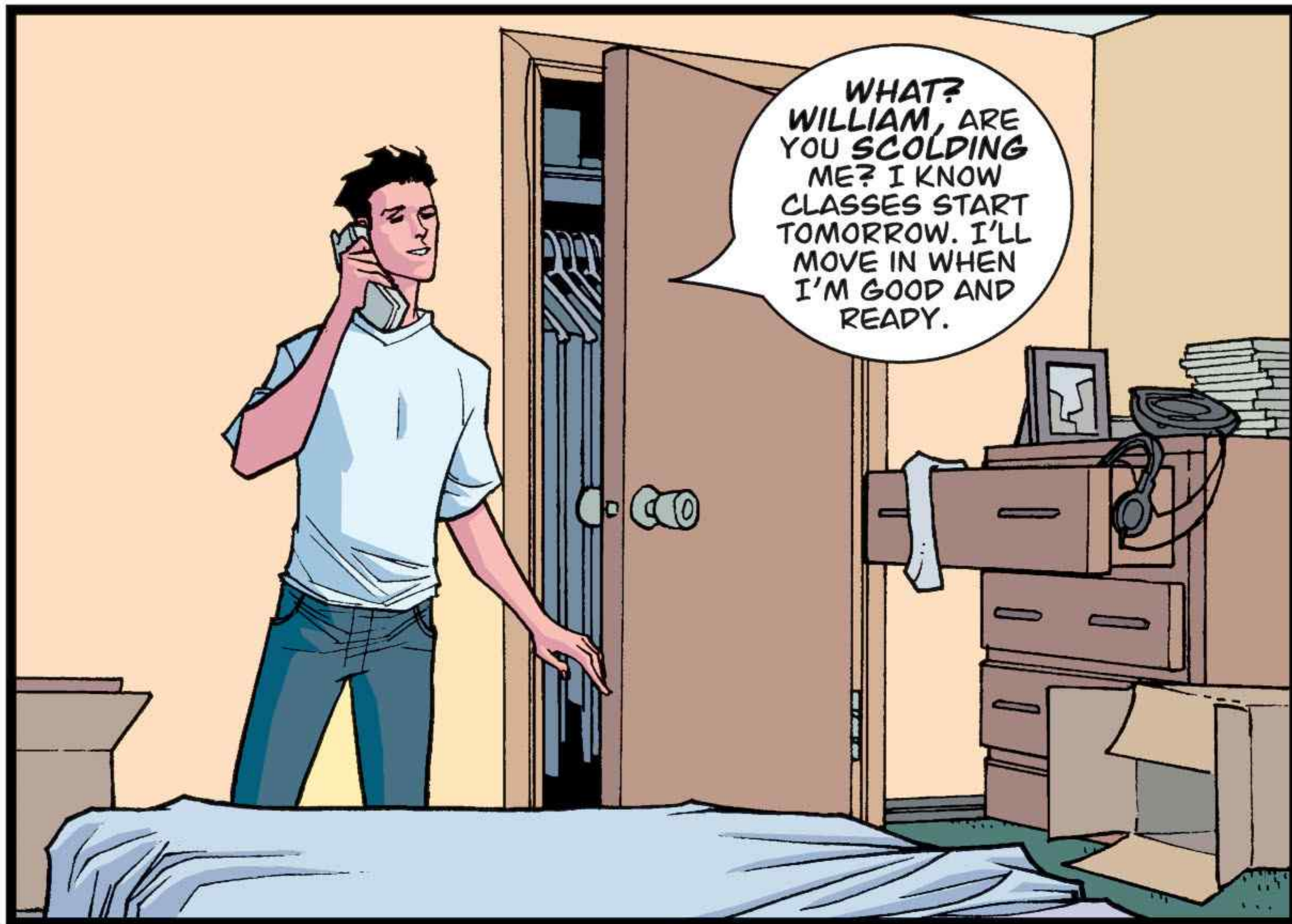
ALL HAIL THE SKY GOD'S CHOSEN ONE! HE IS TO BE OUR ONE TRUE RULER ON EARTH!

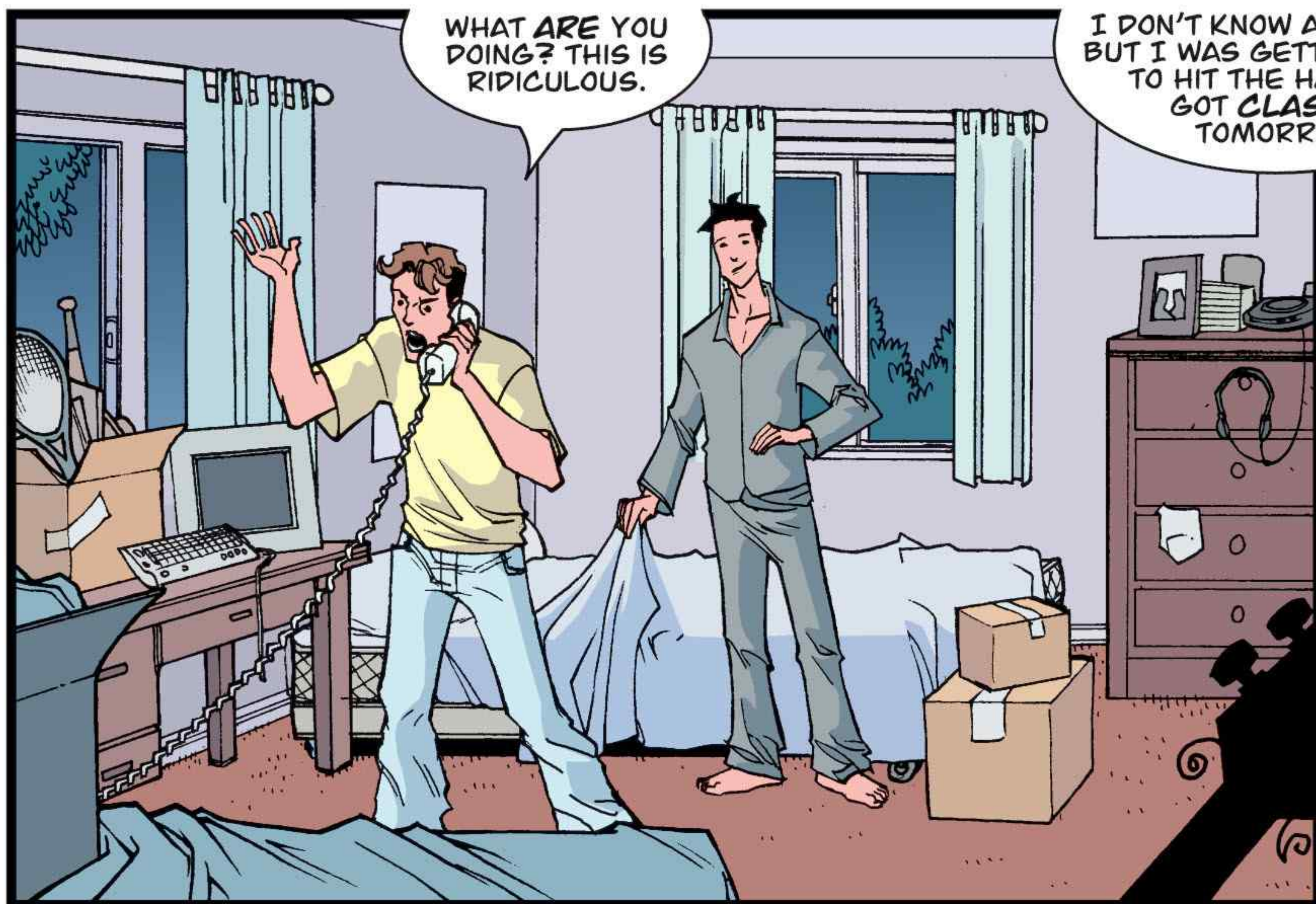
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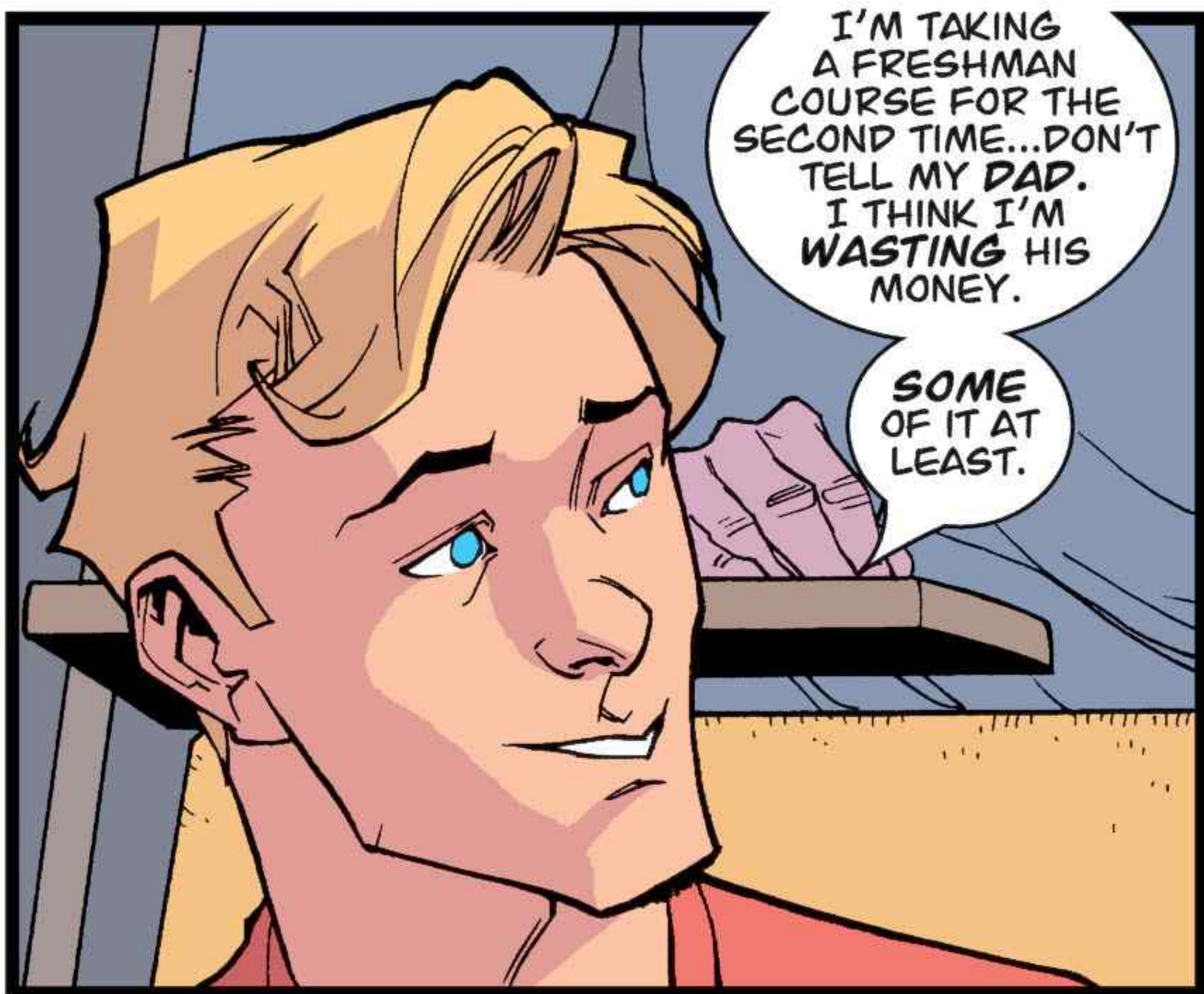
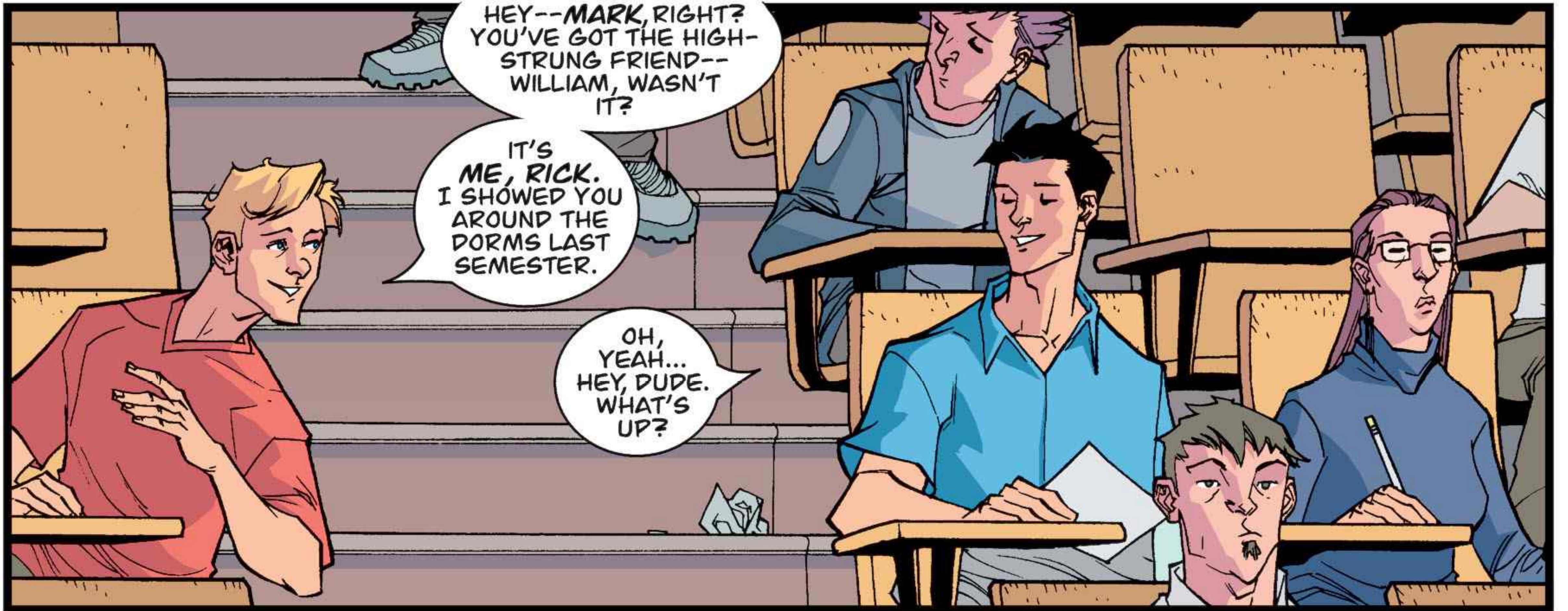


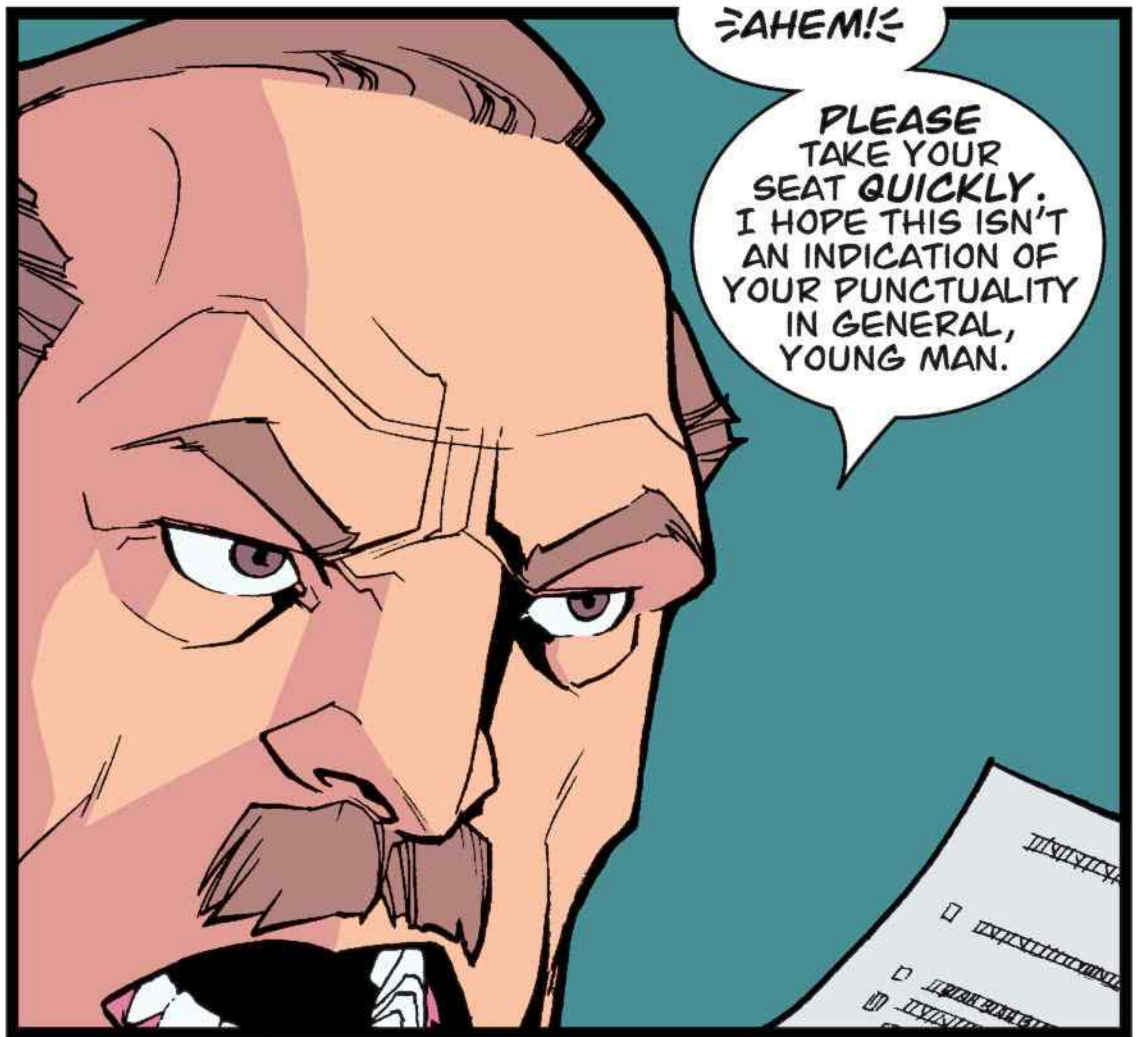
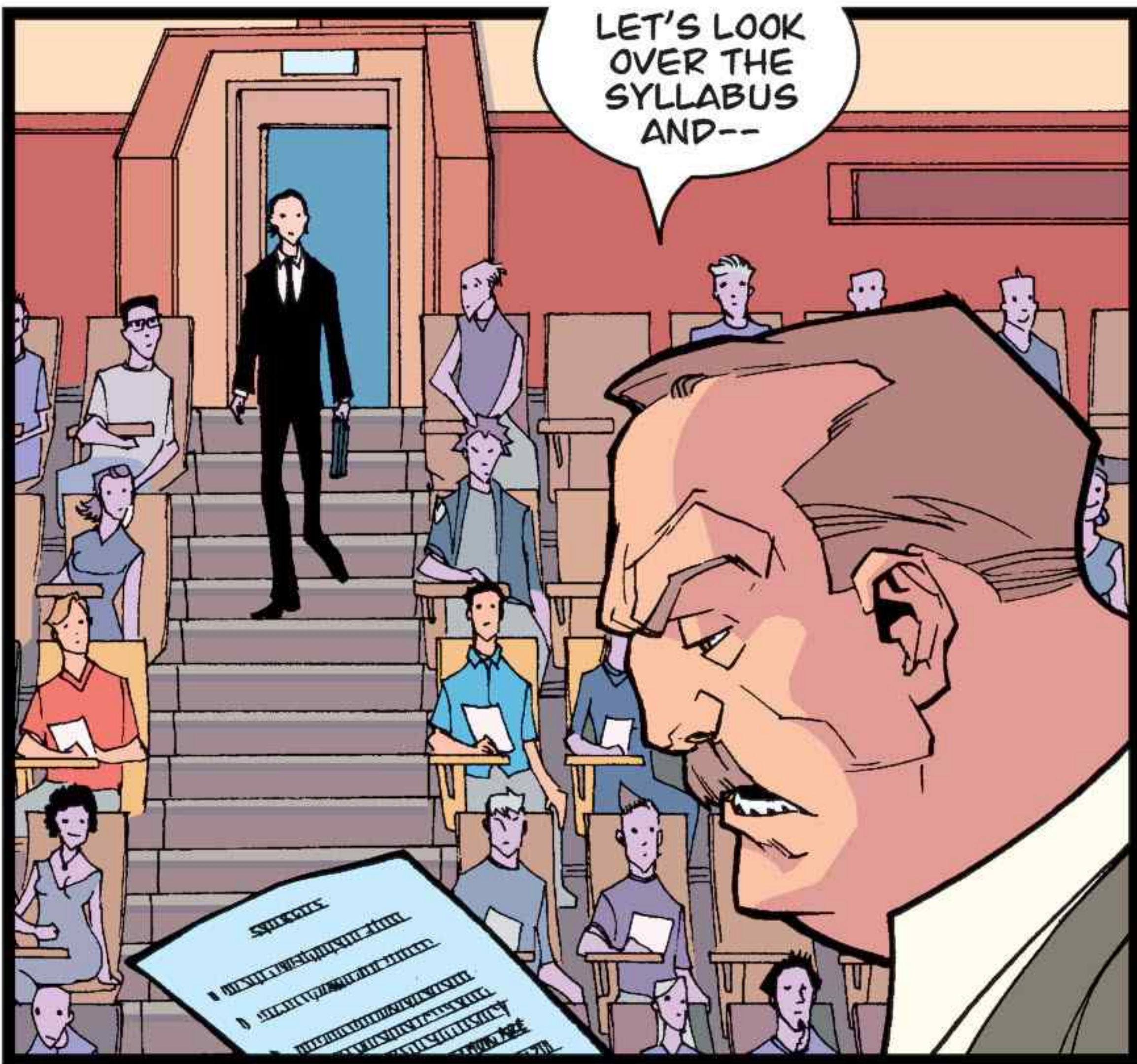










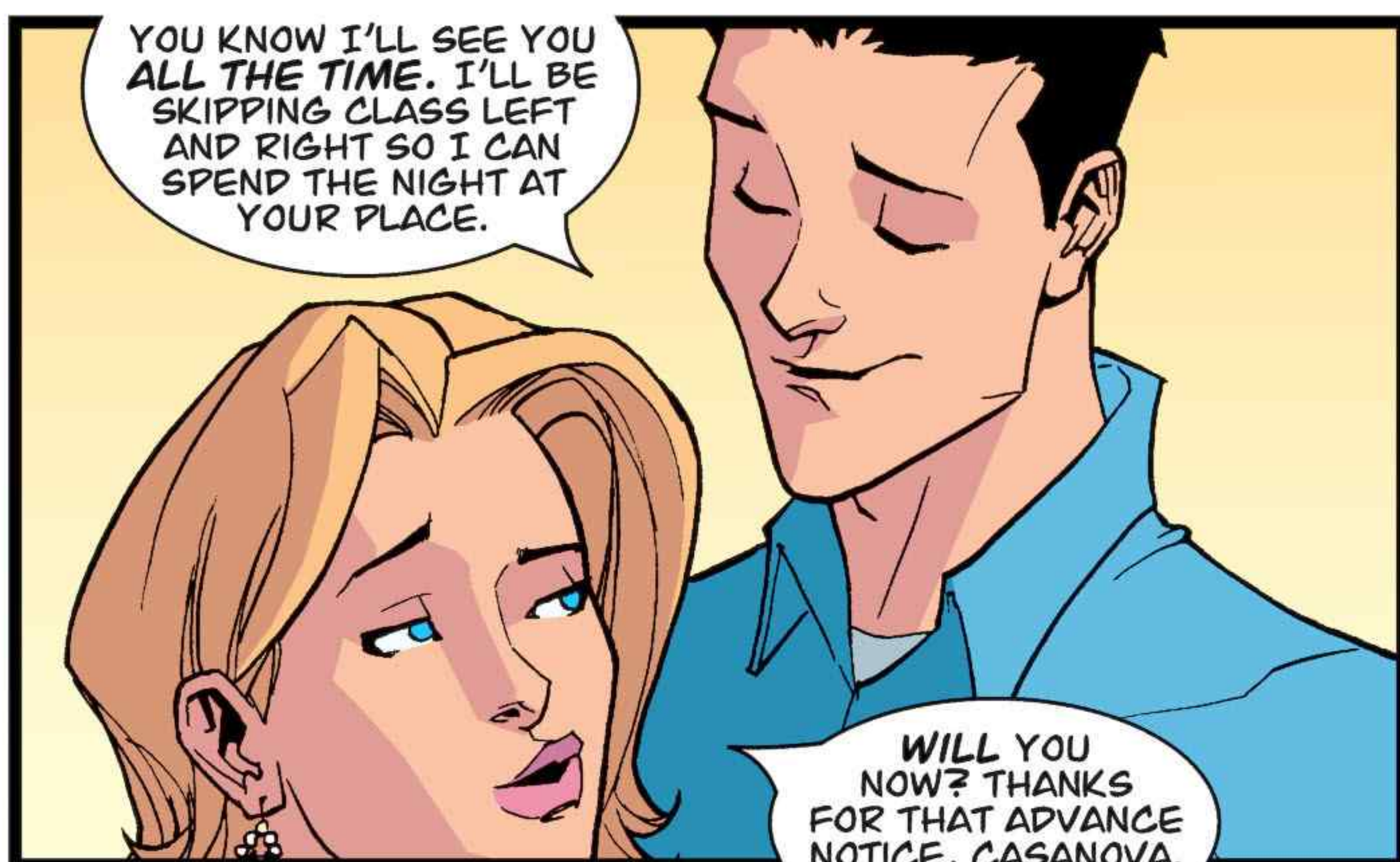
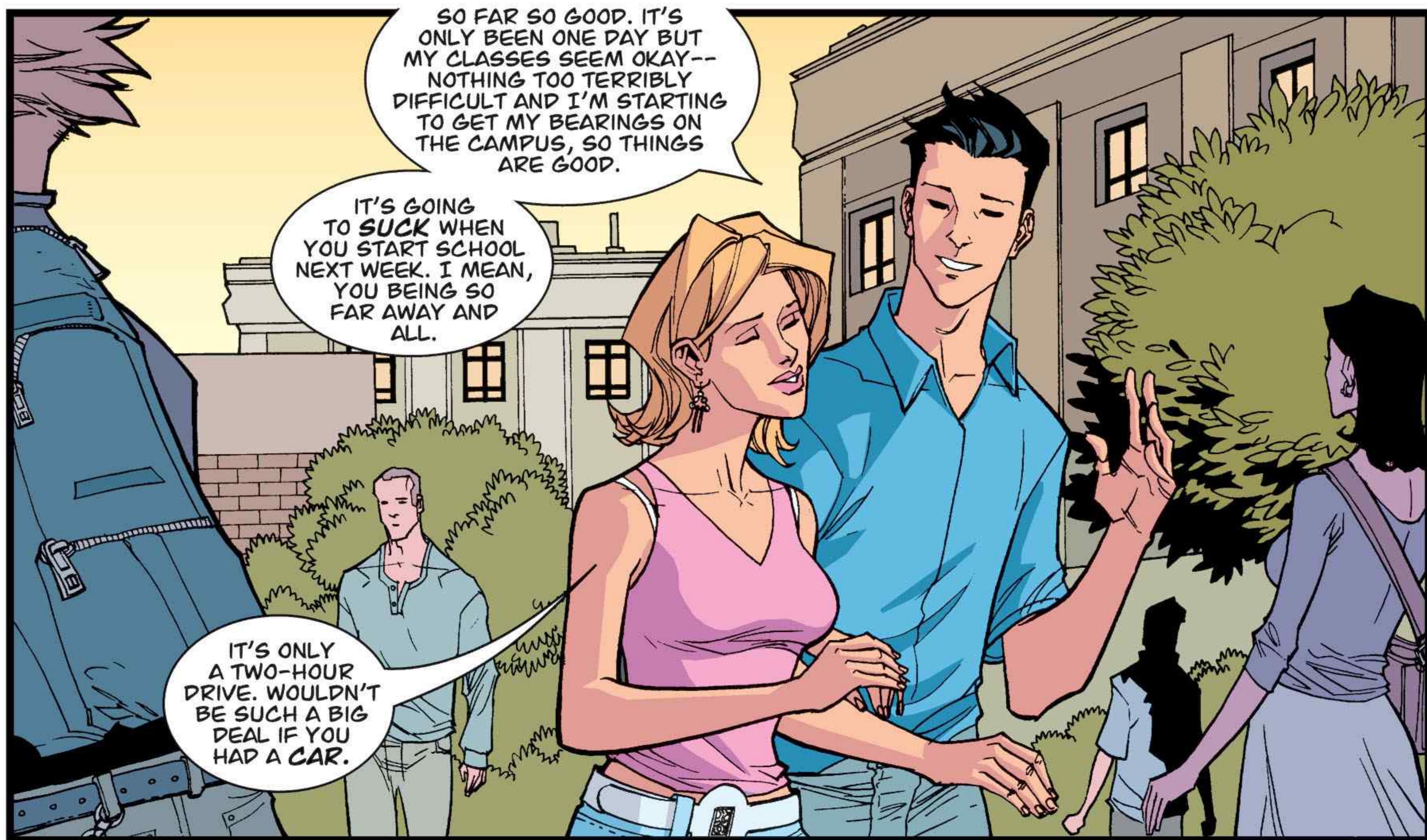


PARDON ME IF THIS CLASS ISN'T MY TOP PRIORITY. I COULD TEACH THIS CLASS, YOU PRIMATE. I SKIPPED IT FOUR YEARS AGO BECAUSE IT WAS BENEATH ME BUT NOW I'M TOLD I MUST TAKE IT TO MOVE ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL.

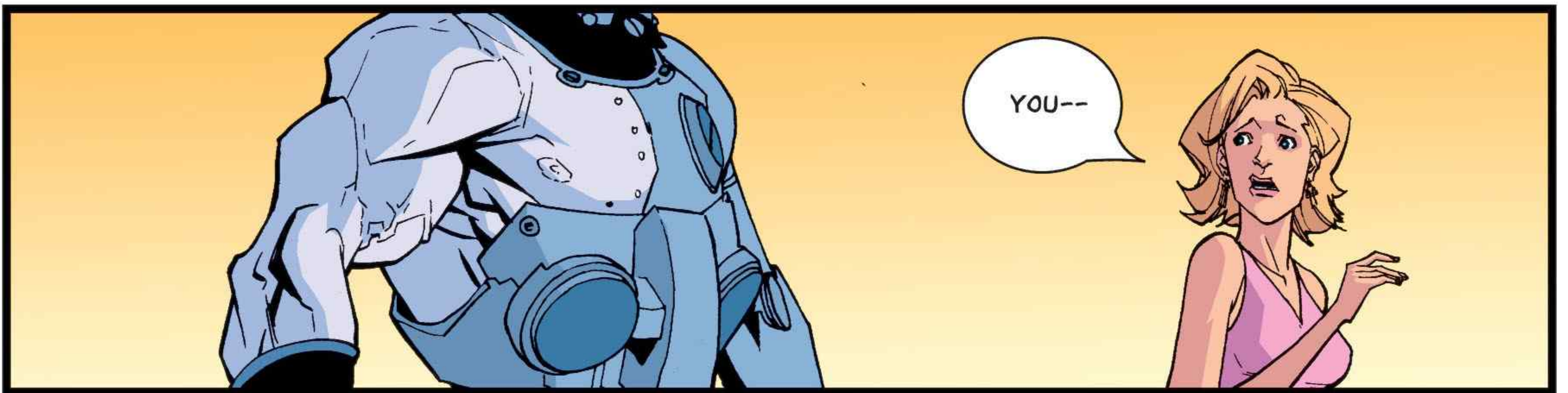
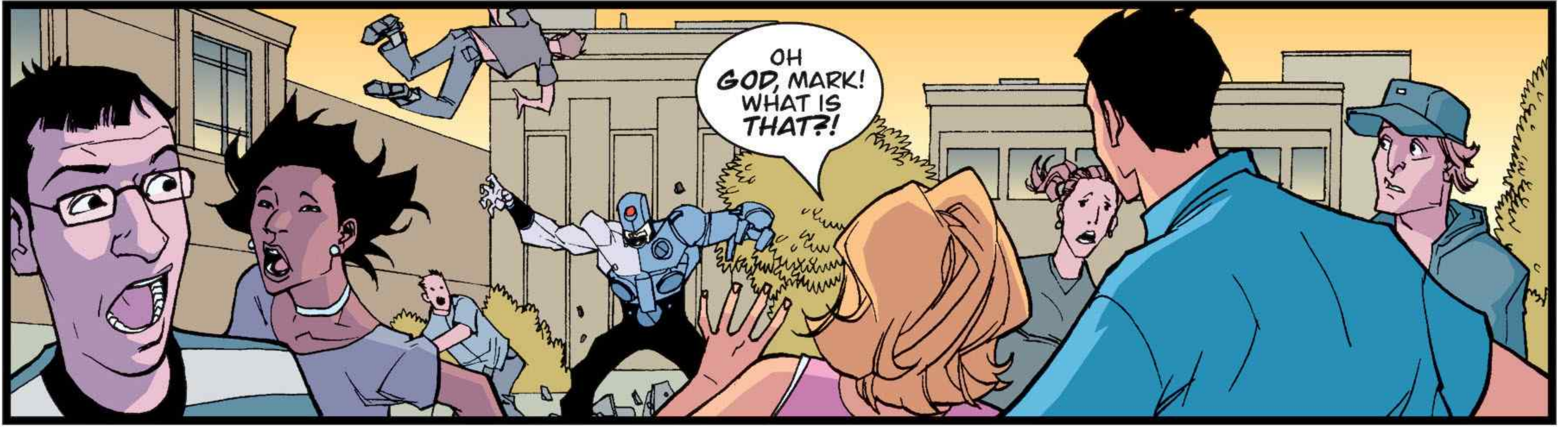
DON'T MAKE THIS A THING, OKAY? I'LL BE COMING AND GOING AS I PLEASE. I HOPE MY PERFECT SCORES WILL GRANT ME SOME LEEWAY WHEN IT COMES TO THIS RIDICULOUS RITUAL OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IN THESE CLASSROOMS.

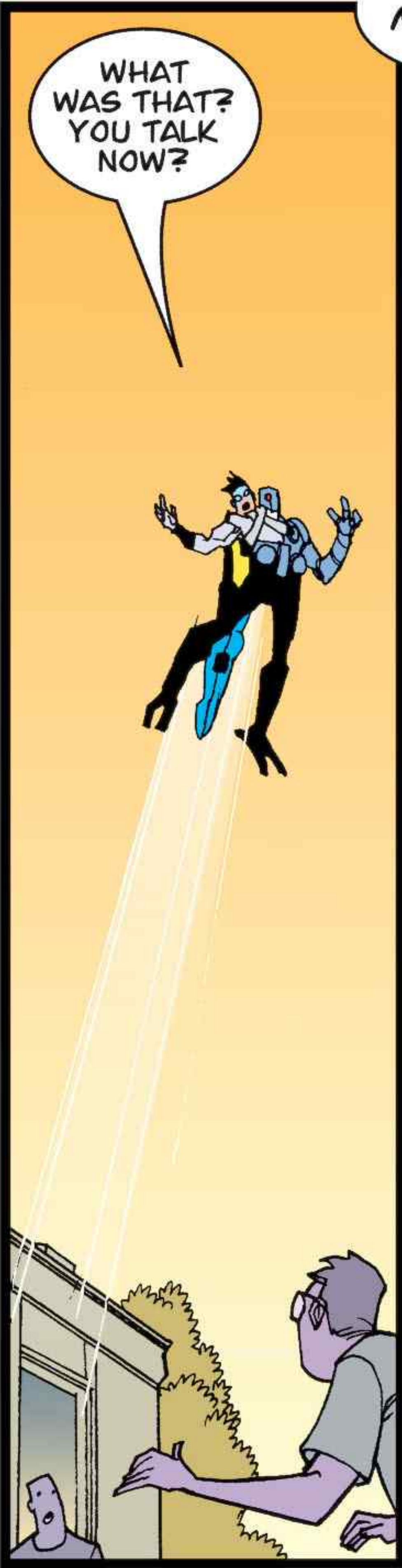
I COULD DO WITHOUT THE CONFLICT.



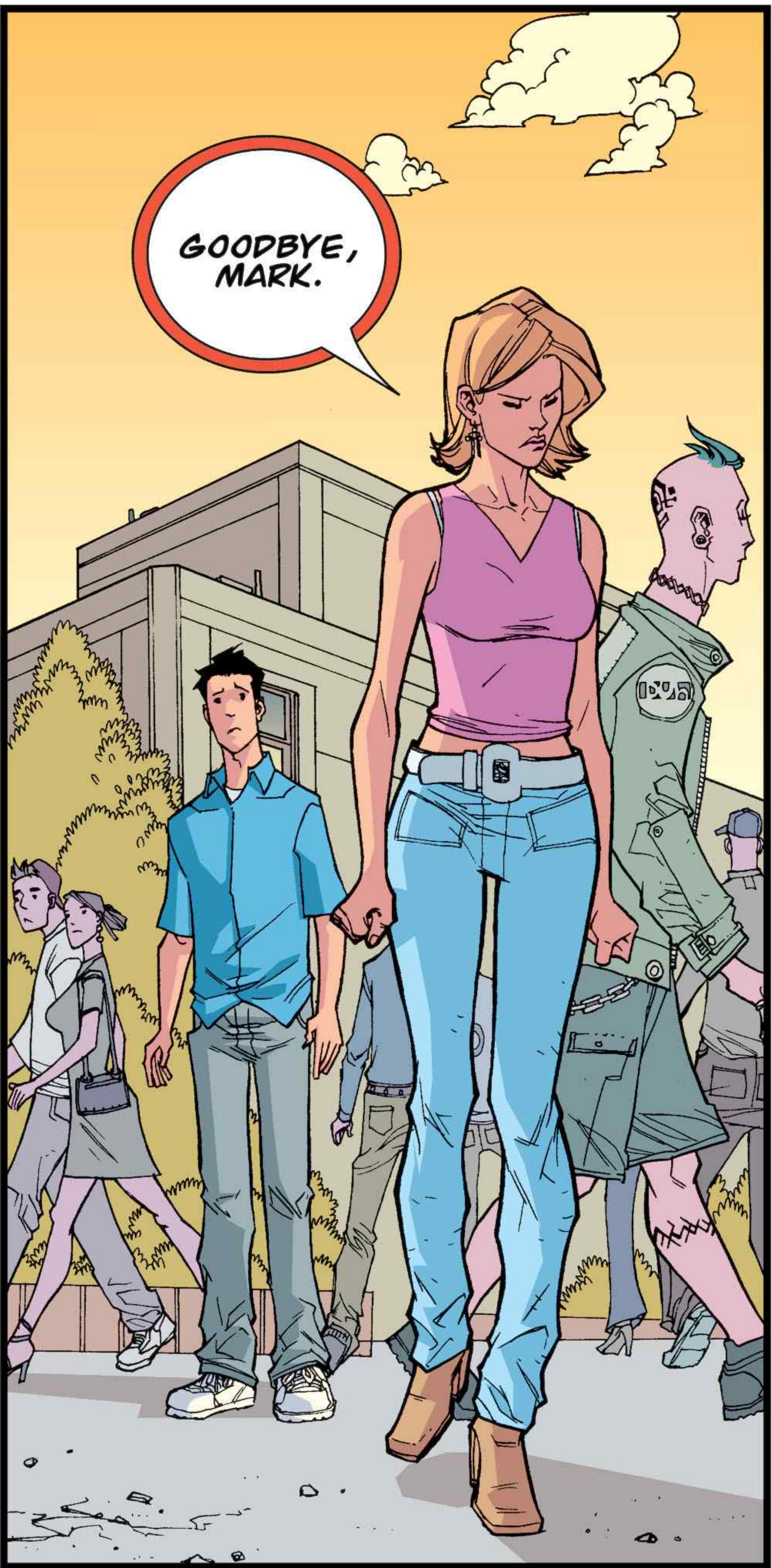
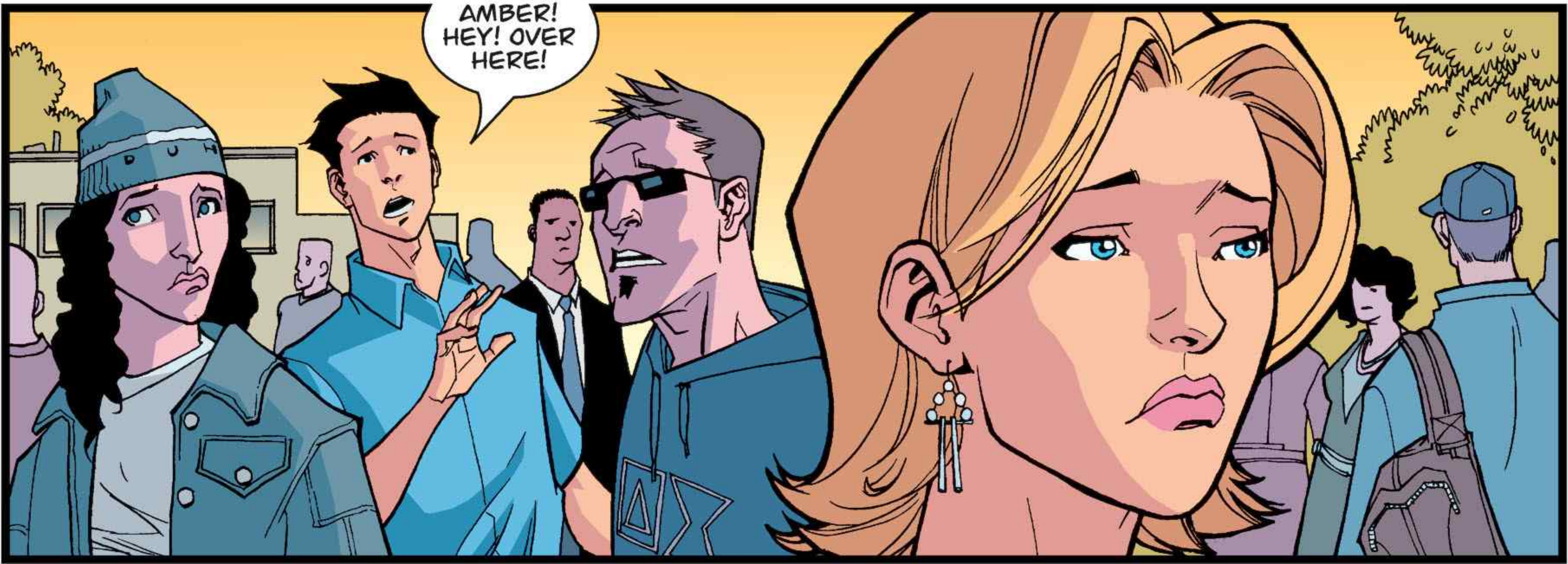














SHE JUST LEFT, MAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.

I WOULDN'T SWEAT IT, DUDE. I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE. YOU DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING WRONG.

AREN'T YOU FRESH OFF A BREAK-UP? I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU AT ALL. BUT YEAH--I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'S PISSED, BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

YOU COULD TELL HER.

I CAN'T TELL HER. TOO MANY PEOPLE KNOW ALREADY.

SO WHAT. WHO CARES? IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN KNOW?

I DON'T WANT MY VILLAINS TO FIND OUT. IF TOO MANY PEOPLE KNOW, IT COULD GET OUT. THEN MY MOM, AMBER--YOU... ANYONE I KNOW COULD BE IN DANGER.

WHATEVER. THAT'S STUPID. I DON'T KNOW ANY SUPER-VILLAINS. I'M NOT GOING TO BE SELLING YOU OUT TO A NEWSPAPER ANYTIME SOON, AND I DOUBT AMBER WOULD EITHER.

BESIDES, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN ARCH-VILLAIN.

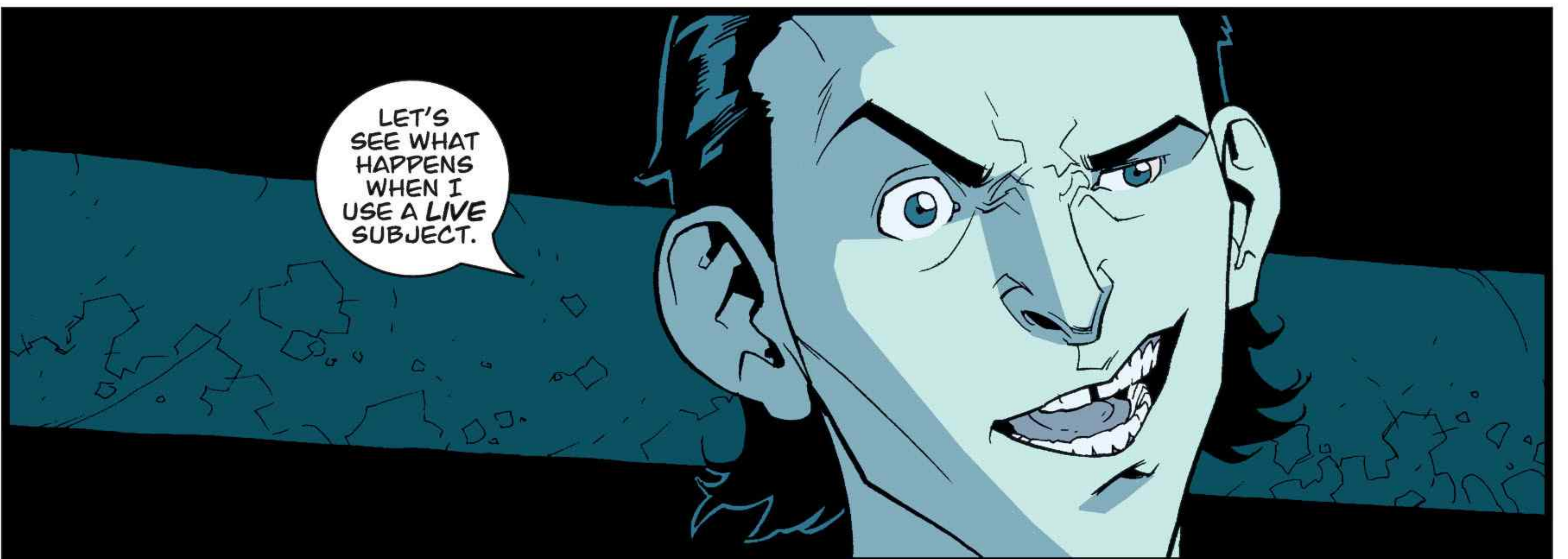
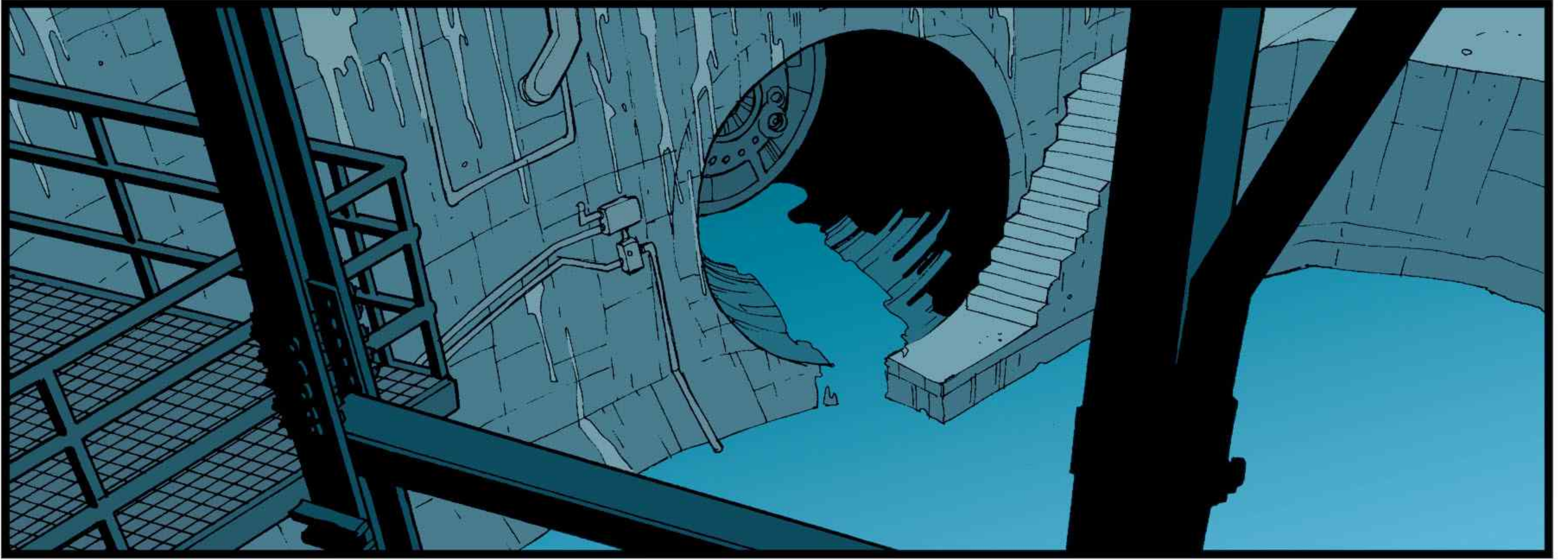
I KEEP FIGHTING THIS ROBOT ZOMBIE THING AND IT CAN BE MY ARCH-VILLAIN. I'M SURE PEOPLE ALREADY THINK WE'RE JOINED AT THE HIP.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE SAME ONE? WASN'T THE FIRST ONE DESTROYED?

MAN--I GOT NO CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON. THIS ONE LOOKED A LITTLE DIFFERENT BUT WHO CAN REALLY SAY? IT CERTAINLY HAD A DEATH WISH LIKE THE OTHER ONE...

MAKE SURE YOU ASK IT MORE QUESTIONS NEXT TIME IT ATTACKS.

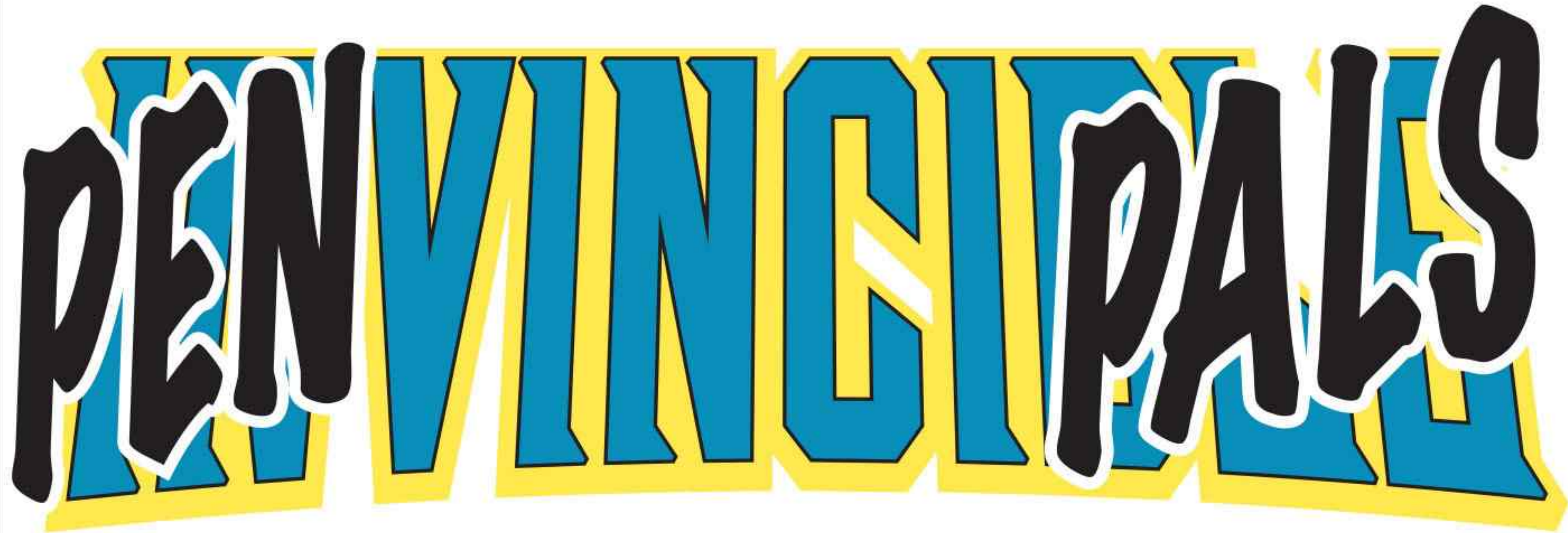
I'LL DO THAT. THANKS.



WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386.

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM



And like lightning--issue 20. It seems like only yesterday we were--ah screw it. Mail time.

Robert (and the rest of the Invincible gang),

Let me start by saying that I really like Invincible. I've only been reading comics for two or three years, and I've pretty much avoided superhero comics up to this point. But I was recently given a stack of Invincible to read, and since then have started buying the new issues as they come out. I really like it quite a bit. One of the (many) things I like about it is that it's pretty much a fun, almost all-ages comic. Yes, I know there are serious things happening like students getting blown up with bombs, fathers beating up their children bloody, an abandoned wife turning to booze, etc. (wow, it sounds a little more "adult" in nature once I write it down). But still, the tone of the book remains "fun" in a superhero sort of way. It's the kind of book I wouldn't mind my children reading once they get old enough to read.

That being said, my gripe is with you letters column, which is definitely NOT a child-friendly place to be. Here's a quote from the first -- THE FIRST -- letter printed in the back of INVINCIBLE #17:

"Sh**, everyone reads your columns and your other wacky stuff, I'm probably AT LEAST the 100th email by now. By the way, Invincible continues to kick f***ing a**."

If you're going to print stuff like this in your book, then you need to slap a "FOR MATURE READERS" tag on the cover. I would hate to see that happen, though, because your book is the kind of comic that could really draw in young readers.

I don't mind the cuss words so much when I'm reading (although I personally try to avoid using such language) but if you want parents to feel comfortable giving Invincible to their kids, you're going to have to exercise more editorial control over your letters page.

Please, please, pretty please?

With a gumdrop on top?

Charles Reed

Yeah--that sort of slipped through. I usually edit out all the cuss words in the letters pages but I do these things kinda late and I tend to miss a lot of stuff. Hopefully the print is so small most kids won't bother to read it. I'll try to be more diligent in the future. Oh, fine--you caught me. I don't really read any of these letters. So there.

Penvincipals:

Plenty to love in this issue. Between the frozen sandwich, the stowaway shape-shifter, Mark's drug dealing, and that last panel, the whole issue was golden.

I gave my autographed copy of the first trade to my cousin for Christmas, and he flipped over it. I think he was more enthused over getting something that'd been autographed than the book itself, but I know that all he'll need to do is read it for that to change. At the very least, I'll need to buy myself another copy of the trade at some point.

As always, thanks for making a great series.

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

Thanks for writing Ryan. The scene at the end of issue 18 was in fact a shape-shifter leaving the planet. That's why he's looking at the other two characters space suits and then changing his to match. He's a STOW-AWAY! Some people missed that, so don't feel bad. Some people even thought the guy was just passing gas... THOSE guys should feel really dumb.

Robert!

Issue #18 was FANTASTIC.

I didn't "get" the last 2 pages at first. I was confused how it was that 5 people got back on the shuttle but there was still one left behind. This topic got brought up on a message board and it was quickly cleared up for me.

After "getting" it, that made it even THAT much better!

Can't WAIT for #19.

Oh yeah, Walking Dead was pretty badass, too.

Later!
Frank Carrera

Actually, I'm doing Marvel Team-Up and Fantastic Four: Foes... and one other thing that will probably never be announced due to the slow artist. But never fear, I'll be continuing Invincible and The Walking Dead for the duration of my Marvel contract, as well as some other things I had committed to before I signed, like Golden Agers, a mini-series I'm doing with Scott Kurtz, and Battle Pope an old book I did that will be reprinted monthly at Image, in color, starting in June. Ask for them by name!

Dead PENvinciPALS,

Another swell issue Robert, Ryan, Bill, and Rus, good stuff. Looking forward to the confrontation between Mark & Amber about "drugs", and if he really tells her the truth. Angstrom Levy is getting more interesting by the issues. At first I thought he could just multiply himself, now he's dimension hopping to grab himself; this should lead up to a nice fight down the line...

Jamie "Isotope" Sime's cameo was a cool touch to the book, and finally seeing Machine Head has me pumped for the issue dealing with him coming up. Martian Man's planet was a neat expedition and the ending leaves a lot of room open...

That's all for now, keep up the good job, see ya next issue!

Invincible-O-Holic
-Mike Stornio

I know nothing of this James Sime you speak of. Who is this? Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

PenVinciPals,

Wow, issue #18 WAS the big one. It was actually pretty cool. I'm glad you pepper this book with so many subplots. The dating scene, school, government work, friends, mom's drinking, supervillain plotting, crimelords manipulating, martian colonies being taken over, martian shapeshifters escaping the planet... lots going on. Hopefully soon you can go through a few issues focusing on just one or two of the subplots or supporting characters to really give that story its due.

Ryan Ottley has slowly grown on me. But don't let him know.

Benito and Nate's strip made me laugh out loud. Sorry, but lines like "He couldn't be full of that many poops" are my cup of chamomile.

If Omni-Man isn't coming any time soon, could the evil Invincible at least visit sometime soon? I'd love a threat that lasted more than an issue or two. Rus and Bill continue to set the standard in lettering and coloring as far as I'm concerned. Invincible is VERY fortunate to have them.

I'm a pretty busy guy, which is why I sometimes miss sending in a letter, but I love coming home on a Wednesday night to read a few comics and Invincible continues to be at the top of my pile.

Questions:
1) Is Cecil going to test Invincible's strength/toughness at some point? I don't mean on a mission, I mean categorically for their records. I would think they'd want to know exactly how powerful Invincible is for the missions they decide to send him on.
2) When are we going to get that Tech Jacket/ Invincible crossover already?
3) How is Darkwing's city holding up after losing him?
4) When is Mark going to learn more about the Viltrumites?
5) Are you and Cory going to do something together again?
6) How long did it take the shuttle to get to Mars? Astronauts can poop in their suits, but Mark wears spandex or something. Did he have to crap his pants in space?

Invincible-farewell!
-Chris Piers

**1) I'm sure he plans to do that at sometime. It's just that this pesky world always needs saving.
2) Years from know... how should I know? It'll be a while. We have to see new Tech Jacket first.
3) See issue 21.
4) Sooner or later. I really don't want to tell. WE'LL be learning a little in issue 23... but not Mark.
5) Nope, just me and his mom. (I hope Charles Reed didn't read down this far)
6) Viltrumites can go a long time without taking a crap. They were in space for some time.**

Okay, folks. That's all I got. Look for pin-ups from:

- 1. Tim Seeley and Mike Norton
- 2. Mahmud A Asrar

They all did a swell job. All those dopey villains Mark is fighting in Tim Seeley's pin-ups are guys Tim made up in High School! Boy did he suck!

After that we've got another back-up by Benito and Nate. This one is good, I swear!

And then we've got the second chapter of Nowhere Men, by Eric Stephenson, Terry Stevens, and Jacob Baake (with lettering by Matt Talbot of Johnny Raygun fame). It's a pretty cool one. So make sure you pick up this book when it comes out in 2015 (that's not much of a wait).

See you all here next month for Midnight City and Darkwing goodness.

-Robert Kirkman